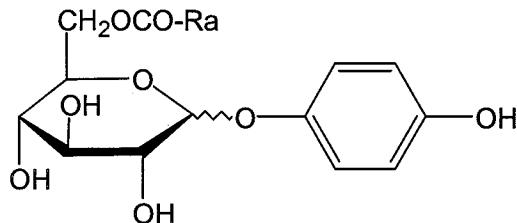


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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An arbutin ester compound represented by formula (1):

Formula (1)



wherein Ra is selected from the group consisting of:

$R_1-CH=CH_2$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkyl group or an arylene group;

$\begin{array}{c} CH_3 \\ | \\ R_1C=CH_2 \end{array}$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group;

$R_1-COOCH=CH_2[[2]]$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group;

$R_1-COOH$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group;

$R_1-COO-R_2$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group; and  $R_2$  is an alkyl group or an aryl group; and

~~$R_1-[R_3-CH=CH-R_4]_X-R_5-CH_3$ , wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are each independently a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group; and  $X$  represents a number of repeating units and is 1 to 6;~~

$R_1-C(CH_3)_3$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group; and

~~$R_1-CH_3$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a single bond, an alkylene group or an arylene group.~~

2.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented): A composition that inhibits tyrosinase comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one of the arbutin ester compounds according to claim 1.

12. (Previously presented): An external preparation for the skin, comprising the composition according to claim 11.